



# PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
45 L STREET NE  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20554

---

News media information 202-418-0500  
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov> (or <ftp.fcc.gov>)  
TTY (202) 418-2555

**Report No. SCL-00430S**

**Friday September 8, 2023**

## **Streamlined Submarine Cable Landing License Applications**

### **Accepted For Filing**

The applications listed below have been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing and subject to the streamlined processing procedures set forth in section 1.767 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.767. Pursuant to the Submarine Cable Landing License Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 34-39, and Executive Order No. 10530, reprinted as amended in 3 U.S.C. § 301, each applicant seeks: (a) the grant of a cable landing license; (b) the modification of a cable landing license; and/or (c) the assignment or transfer of control of an interest in a submarine cable landing license.

Pursuant to its decision in Review of Commission Consideration of Applications under the Cable Landing License Act, IB Docket No. 00-106, FCC 01-332, 16 FCC Rcd 22167 (2001), and section 1.767 of the rules, the Commission will take action upon these applications within forty-five (45) days after release of this public notice, unless upon further examination an application is deemed ineligible for streamlined processing.

Ex parte communications between outside parties and Commission staff concerning these applications are permitted subject to the Commission's rules for "permit-but-disclose proceedings." See 47 CFR § 1.1206. Unless otherwise specified, interested parties may file comments with respect to these applications within 14 days of this notice. Such filings will not necessarily result in an application being deemed ineligible for streamlined processing.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530. All applications listed are subject to further consideration and review, and may be returned and/or dismissed if not found to be in accordance with the Commission's rules, regulations, and other requirements.

## Submarine Cable Landing License

Unicom, Inc. (Unicom) has filed an application for a license to land and operate a non-common carrier fiber-optic submarine cable system connecting Dillingham, Platinum, and Eek, Alaska. The cable system will be known as the Airraq submarine cable system (Airraq).

Airraq will be a high-fiber-count system deploying space division multiplexing technology landing in three locations with two segments: (1) an approximately 381 kilometer segment connecting the Dillingham, Alaska cable landing station to the Platinum, Alaska cable landing station and (2) an approximately 155 kilometer segment connecting the Platinum, Alaska cable landing station to the Eek, Alaska cable landing station. Each segment will have 12 fiber pairs, each having a design capacity of approximately 3.2 terabits per second (Tbps) using current technology. All of the cable landing stations will be newly built. Unicom will own and control both segments and all three cable landing stations for Airraq. Unicom expects Airraq to commence commercial service during the fourth quarter of 2024.

Unicom proposes to operate Airraq on a non-common-carrier basis. Unicom states that it will not sell capacity indifferently to the user public. Instead, Unicom will: (a) use Airraq system capacity as an input for other services offered to retail, enterprise, and government customers in Alaska and (b) sell bulk capacity to particular carrier, enterprise, and government customers pursuant to individually-negotiated indefeasible rights of use (IRUs) and capacity leases, the terms of which will vary depending on the characteristics and needs of the particular capacity purchaser. Unicom states that it and its affiliates will continue to compete vigorously with the incumbent, Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc. (ACS), in the intra-Alaska and Alaska-Lower 48 markets, and provide customers in the three locations that rely solely on satellite links, which suffer from propagation delays and capacity constraints, with much-needed capacity and redundancy. In addition, Unicom states that it will compete vigorously with existing providers' facilities, including existing satellite service providers: ACS, Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc., and Starlink.

Unicom is a wholly owned subsidiary of GCI Communication Corp. (GCICC), both Alaska corporations. GCICC is a wholly owned subsidiary of GCI Holdings, Inc., which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ventures Holdco, LLC (Ventures Holdco), both Delaware entities. Ventures Holdco is a wholly owned subsidiary of GCI, LLC, which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of Grizzly Merger Sub 1 LLC, which is a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty Broadband Corporation (Liberty Broadband), all Delaware entities. Dr. John C. Malone, a U.S. citizen, holds a 48.9% voting interest and an approximate 6.074% equity interest in Liberty Broadband. The Applicant states that no other individual or entity holds a 10% or greater ownership interest in Liberty Broadband.

Unicom agrees to accept and abide by the routine conditions specified in section 1.767(g) of the Commission's rules. 47 CFR §1.767(g).

## REMINDERS:

Applicants must certify that neither the applicant nor any party to the application is subject to a denial of federal benefits by federal and/or state courts under authority granted in 21 U.S.C. § 862. See CFR §§ 1.2001-1.2003.

By this notice, we inform the public that submarine cable landing license applications that are part of larger transactions involving multiple Commission licenses or authorizations may involve "extraordinary circumstances" as referenced in Review of Commission Consideration of Applications under the Cable Landing License Act, Report and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 22167 (2001) and Rules and Policies on Foreign Participation in the U.S. Telecommunications Market, Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, 12 FCC Rcd 23891 (1997), paras. 327-28, Order on Reconsideration, 15 FCC Rcd 18158 (2000). Additionally, extraordinary circumstances result where Executive Branch agencies petition the Commission to defer action on an application pending the resolution of potential national security, law enforcement, foreign policy and trade policy issues. Accordingly, these applications may be removed from streamlined processing and may not be acted on within the 90-day review period that the Commission has established as the period of time normally required to reach a decision on non-streamlined cable landing licenses. This notice shall serve as public notice to applicants that, in these circumstances, additional time may be required for Commission review and final action. No additional formal public notice will be provided routinely with respect to specific applications in the event that the applicable review period extends beyond 90 days.